



Massachusetts Disability Quarterly

A Publication from the
Massachusetts Office On Disability



One Ashburton Place, Room 1305 Boston, MA 02108

Vol. 2
Issue 1

*Full & Equal Participation in All Aspects of
Life by All Persons With Disabilities*

Summer
2016

Save the Date for MOD's **2016 Disability Summit**

Rita DiNunzio

Planning is well underway for MOD's second annual Summit. The Disability Summit is MOD's largest public event of the year. It is an opportunity to host and facilitate a meeting of over 300 opinion leaders and agenda setters from the disability community. We expect guests to include state officials, agency heads, senior staff of disability organizations, representatives from major employers in the Commonwealth, elected officials, and members of the disability community and their families. This year's theme is Employment. Speakers will provide perspectives and data on the issue of under-employment and labor force participation of the disability population. —*Continued on page 2*

Did You Know?

Current and archived issues of this newsletter are available for download on our website www.mass.gov/mod. To request large print/alternative format, please contact MOD at 617-727-7440.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Save the Date 2016 Disability Summit
- MOD Promotes Establishment of CODs
- MOD On the Road
- Spotlight: Client Assistance Program
- Upcoming ADA Trainings
- Jeffrey's Access Corner
- Spring 2016 Calendar

Save the Date for MOD's 2016 Disability Summit
—Continued from page 1

We have confirmed speakers from the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C., Dahlia Shaewitz and Dr. Michelle Yin, to present their recent studies on disability and employment. There will also be live entertainment, an award presentation and continental breakfast.

2016 DISABILITY SUMMIT EMPLOYMENT

Our 2015 Summit was a success with approximately 300 attendees. The Summit has again been planned to coincide with the 2016 Abilities Expo, a free disability expo that is also held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center where MOD will be an exhibitor. Guests who RSVP to the Summit in advance will be pre-registered for the Expo as well. Summit 2016 is supported by and made possible via the New England ADA Center to which MOD is the State Affiliate. Attendance is free and open to the public.

Date: September 16, 2016

Time: Registration at 8:30AM

**Location: Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, 415
Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210**

RSVP & accommodation requests— Phone: 617-727-7440

Email: mod-events@state.ma.us

Follow MOD on Twitter



@MassDisability

Published by the
Massachusetts Office on Disability.
Executive Editor, David D'Arcangelo.
Copy Editor, Rita DiNunzio.

MOD Promotes Establishment of Local Commissions on Disability

Jeffrey Dougan

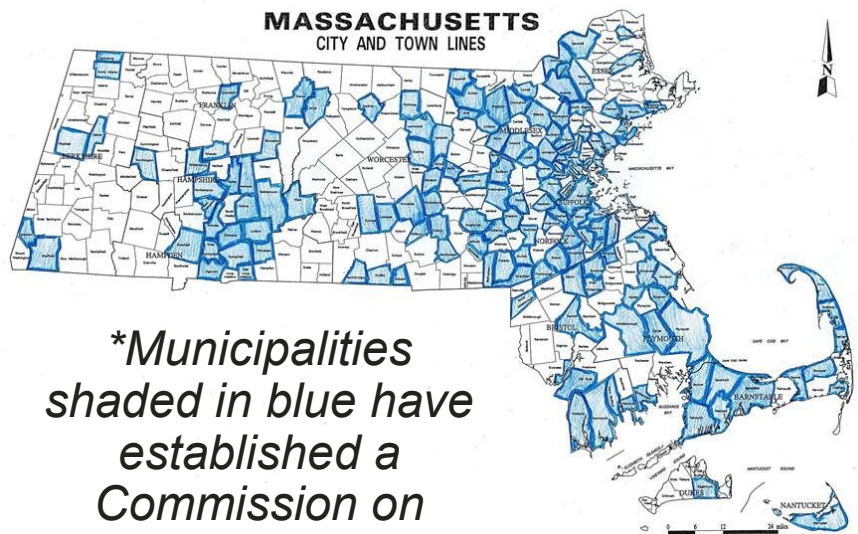
CODs are established by vote of Town Meeting or City Council to promote the inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities in the activities, services and employment opportunities in the community. Initiating the formation of a local COD is an important step towards ensuring equal access and opportunity for persons with disabilities within the community.

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) has recently launched a campaign to increase the number of Commissions on Disabilities (CODs). MOD recently mailed "COD Formation in Your Community" packets to elected and appointed officials in approximately 190 communities across the Commonwealth. Currently, there are about 150 MA communities that do not have a COD. The first step in establishing a COD is for the municipality to adopt M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 8J; either at a Town Meeting or through action by the City Council and Mayor.



MOD's Jeffrey Dougan (far right) with recently reconvened Lawrence COD

If you are interested in serving on a COD, would like to help establish a COD in your community, or have any questions please feel free to contact MOD directly at 617-727-7440.



**Municipalities shaded in blue have established a Commission on Disability*

Spotlight: Client Assistance Program

Naomi Goldberg

Are you concerned about the progress of your vocational rehabilitation (VR) case at either Mass Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) or Mass Commission for the Blind (MCB)? Are you a past VR client considering reapplying and are not sure if it would be worthwhile? Do you disagree with the current direction of your VR case and want to know about your rights?

If so, speaking to the Client Assistance Program (CAP) could be useful. CAP functions as an outside ombuds service for VR clients and applicants who have concerns about services with a VR agency and want to discuss them with a neutral third party. The program is funded by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the same agency that funds the VR agencies.

CAP will gladly speak to anyone who has questions and/or concerns about VR and advise them of their rights as a client or applicant. CAP will evaluate the particulars of a case to determine the options for fixing a problem or how to move forward when a case is not progressing. The level of assistance that CAP is able to provide will depend on the individual case but could include:

- Contacting the agency to discuss the case.
- Attending meetings with client and VR counselor
- Performing research to identify alternative approaches/resources to helping resolve issues.
- Facilitating communication between the agency when an impasse has been reached.
- Providing representation when appealing a decision.

Reach CAP at 617-727-7440 or 800-322-2020

Jeffrey's Access Corner

Jeffrey Dougan

As I promised in an earlier installment of “Jeffrey’s Access Corner”, I want to spend some time discussing the provision of accessible on-street parking. While the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) and the 1991 and 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (1991/2010 ADA Standards) have very specific regulations regarding off-street accessible parking, these these regulations do not extend their jurisdiction to on-street accessible parking spaces.

Does accessible on-street parking have to be provided?

Yes. Since we cannot look to the MAAB or the 1991/2010 ADA Standards for the technical requirements, we must look to the overarching obligations of a Title II entity (State or Local Government) covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Title II of the ADA requires that covered entities must ensure that their programs and services are accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities. On-street parking is a service offered to everyone; therefore it must be ensured that there is accessible on-street parking provided as well. Currently, a minimum of 5% of the on-street parking should be accessible.

What does accessible on-street parking look like?

Currently, accessible on-street parking spaces don’t look much different than your standard on-street parking spaces. The difference is subtle; however, the placement of accessible on-street parking spaces is crucial. First, signage must be provided at the head of the parking space to reserve it for people using HP plates or Placards; much like you would find in a parking lot. Second, if there is a sidewalk adjacent to the location of the accessible on-street parking space, it should be located close to a curb cut so someone exiting on the driver’s side of the vehicle can travel the shortest distance to get onto the sidewalk. Third, if there is a sidewalk adjacent to the space, there should be enough space for a lift to lower onto the sidewalk without hitting an obstruction like a tree, waste barrel, sign or other piece of street furniture. That’s it. Simple right? —*Continued on Page 6*

Jeffrey's Access Corner —*Continued from page 5*

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) that are currently being considered for adoption by the Department of Justice. These regulations (currently unenforceable but regarded as a best practice), provide standards for how streetscapes will look when renovated and incorporate a lot of great accessible design features including accessible on-street parking. PROWAG, with some exceptions, would require a set number of accessible on-street parking spaces based on the number of on-street parking spaces provided in a block radius—roughly 5%. It also discusses the look, location and design of said spaces. I will discuss PROWAG in more detail in an upcoming issue.



Until next time, if there is a topic you would like to see addressed in a future installment, please let me know at jeff.dougan@state.ma.us or 617-727-7440.

MOD Is Hitting the Road

Rita DiNunzio

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) is the state advocacy agency that serves people with disabilities of all ages. MOD offers free services to the public such as accessibility site surveys, technical assistance on civil rights violations, and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability related laws. Although any constituent of the Commonwealth can access these and other services through our Boston office, MOD leadership decided it was time that staff packed up and came out to parts of the state farther from the Greater Boston area to offer these services. As a result, MOD is launching the “MOD On the Road” (MODOTR) —*Continued on Page 7*

MOD Is Hitting the Road —*Continued from page 6*

program in which staff representing each of MOD's units will travel to another part of the state to host various activities and trainings.

The first MODOTR will take place this July in Western MA. MOD staff will conduct a series of trainings, site surveys, outreach activities, and visits for individuals who live and work in the Pittsfield-Springfield areas.

We are confident that this initiative will be a success and that this will be the first of several MODOTR. See you soon in Western MA!

Upcoming ADA Trainings

MOD will co-host two free public trainings with the New England ADA Center this summer. **What's New with the ADA in 2016:** State and Local Government (Morning) and Employment (Afternoon)

Training One: Wednesday, June 29, 2016

Westwood Public Library
660 High St.
Westwood, MA

Training Two: Tuesday, July 12, 2016

West Springfield Public Library Community Room
200 Park Street
West Springfield, MA

Time: ADA for Local Governments 8:45am–Noon

ADA and Employment 12:45pm-4:00pm

Contact: Stacy R. Hart, ADA Trainer

New England ADA Center

1-800-949-4232 x 240, Shart@newenglandada.org

Summer 2016 Calendar



June

4, Saturday

DCR Accessible Recreation Fair,
Brighton

6, Monday

Retired Members of the Armed
Forces Day

13, Monday

Massachusetts Nonprofit
Awareness Day

14, Tuesday

Flag Day

15, Wednesday

Regional Commission on Disability
Meeting, N. Attleboro

17, Friday

Bunker Hill Day

25, Saturday

Korean War Veterans Day

29, Wednesday

ADA Training, Westwood

29-30, Wednesday-Thursday

CAM Training, Framingham

July

Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Awareness Month

4, Monday

Independence Day

12, Tuesday

ADA Training, West
Springfield

17-23, Sunday-Saturday

Lead Poisoning Prevention
Week

22, Friday

Fragile X Awareness Day

26-27, Tuesday-Wednesday

MOD On the Road, Western
MA

August

7, Sunday

Purple Heart Day

14, Sunday

Social Security Day

Massachusetts Disability Quarterly

Massachusetts Office on Disability
One Ashburton Place
Room 1305
Boston, MA 02108

Contact MOD

Phone: 617.727.7440
Toll Free: 800. 322.2020
Fax: 617.727.0965
Web: mass.gov/mod



blog.mass.gov/mod